

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9155

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0239

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROWLING, WALLACE E.) NZ, ANZUS

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER ROWLING

REF: A) WELLINGTON 3722; B) STATE 263421

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NORRISH HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT PRIME MINISTER ROWLING WILL DEFINITELY ATTEND ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 24 AND 25. NORRISH SAID THAT MFA HAS ASKED NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO APPROACH DEPARTMENT RE VISIT AND TO EXPRESS THE PRIME MINISTER'S WISH TO CALL ON PRESIDENT FORD WHILE IN WASHINGTON. ROWLING WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CAL UPON VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER, SECRETARY KISSINGER, PRESIDENT OF IBRD AND HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND. IF IT CAN BE ARRANGED, PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. NORRISH SOUGHT EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING WASHINGTON SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS.

2. ALTHOUGH PLANNING FOR US VISIT IS STILL ONLY IN PRE-LIMINARY STAGES, NORRISH STATED THAT SCHEDULE AS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED WOULD BRING ROWLING TO WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY, CONFIDENTIAL

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APRIL 22. WHETHER MRS. ROWLING WILL ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER

IS NOT DEFINITE BUT MFA THINKS IT PROBABLE THAT SHE WILL
APRIL 23 WOULD BE A FREE DAY WITH APRIL 24 AND 25 FOR
ANZUS MEETINGS. HOWEVER, ANZUS SCHEDULE WOULD
NOT BE SO HEAVY THAT OTHER CALLS COULD NOT BE MADE, IN
MFA VIEW. PRIME MINISTER AND PARTY WOULD REMAIN IN WASHINGTON
OR ITS GENERAL ENVIRONS OVER THE WEEKEND WITH DEPARTURE FOR
JAMAICA AND THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING
SET FOR MONDAYBN APRIL 28. TENTATIVE THOUGHT IS THAT
ROWLING WOULD STOP IN SOME SOUTHERN STATE, A PART OF US
WHICH HE HAS NOT YET VISITED, ENROUTE TO JAMAICA.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT EVERY EFFORT
BE MADE TO ARRANGE AN APPROPRIATE MEETING BETWEEN PRIME
MINISTER ROWLING AND PRESIDENT FORD AND THAT EVERYTHING
REASONABLE BE DONE TO ARRANGE OTHER CALLS AND APPOINTMENTS
AS WELL. ALTHOUGH UNASSUMING ALMOST TO THE POINT OF BEING
SELF-EFFACING, HOWLING IS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND EFFECTIVE
POLITICIAN AND LEADER, WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES.
THE LEFT WING OF THE RULING LABOUR PARTY MAY QUESTIN NEW
ZEALAND'S LINKS, INCLUDING ITS MILITARY LINK, WITH THE
UNITED STATES, BUT THE DOMINANT MAJORITY LED BY ROWLING
UNDERSTANDS THE LONG-TERM NECESSITY OF NEW ZEALAND'S
MILITARY TIME TO WASHINGTON.

IN ADDITION TO THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL-MILITARY
TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, THE
ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL LINK HAS ASSUMED GROWING IMPORTANCE
IN RECENT YEARS. THE VISIT OF ROWLING, BASICALLY AN
ECONOMIST, CAN BE UTILIZED TO STRENGTHEN THIS TIE. WE
SHALL BE SENDING A FURTHER CABLE WITH SCHEDULING
SUGGESTIONS ON FORTHCOMING VISIT.
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